

## **ABSTRACT**

**Please replace the existing abstract with the following new abstract**

The present invention discloses low molecular weight proteins secreted by the developing pancreas, which include arginine-rich DG153 protein and Follistatin-related protein 1 (FLRG; termed DG177). The present invention also relates to polynucleotides, which encode these proteins. Also provided are methods for the diagnosis, study, prevention, and treatment of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes), obesity, and/or metabolic syndrome using these proteins and polynucleotides.